

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 ACDA-19 IO-14

OMB-01 NIC-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 EB-11 /195 W

----- 059824

R 171128Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6713

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3259

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG UR LY

SUBJECT: GOE UNEASE AT LIBYAN/SOVIET RAPPROCHEMENT

1. WITHIN PAST SEVERAL DAYS, THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF INDICATIONS THAT GOE IS INCREASINGLY CONCERNED BY CLOSING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN USSR AND LIBYA.

2. MAY 16 AKHBAR, FOR EXAMPLE, PUBLISHED UPI ARTICLE FROM LONDON STATING THAT ACCORDING TO "CIRCLES CONCERNED WITH THE MIDDLE EAST", USSR IS ATTEMPTING TO FORM ARAB FRONT COMPOSED OF LIBYA AND IRAQ AS A MEASURE AGAINST EGYPT. WHILE ARTICLE WAS NOT SOURCED BY EGYPTIANS, OR GENERATED WITHIN EGYPT, CONFIDENTIAL

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FACT THAT IT APPEARED IN CAIRO PRESS IS SIGNIFICANT.

3. MAY 17 PRESS INTENSIFIES THIS THEME. AKHBAR CARRIES LONG ARTICLE BY MUSA SABRI ON FRONT PAGE VIGOROUSLY ATTACKING QADHAAFI BY NAME FOR TRYING TO PUNISH EGYPT BY WITHHOLDING MONEY AND OIL ("MAY YOUR SUPPORT AND YOUR OIL GO TO HELL\*"), AND STATING THAT IF LIBYAN LEADER DOES NOT STOP, HE WILL BE THE LOSER IN THE END. SABRI ADDS THAT HE HAS NO WISH TO CONGRATULATE QADHAAFI ON HIS "NEW WEDDING" TO SOVIET UNION, "THINKING THEREBY THAT HE SIDES WITH IT AGAINST EGYPT." MAY 17 AHARAM ADDS ITS VOICE TO SABRI'S IN EDITORIAL CASTIGATING UNNAMED ARAB STATE FOR "MERCHANDISING" WITH THE SOVIET UNION AFTER HAVING ONLY SHORT TIME BEFORE ATTACKED USSR FOR ITS COLLUSION WITH US AGAINST EGYPT'S INTERESTS.

4. THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER SIGNS OF UNEASE. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF ONE DAY AGO, MIDDLE-LEVEL MFA OFFICIAL REMARKED THAT SOVIETS WERE PLAYING "DIRTY GAME" WITH EGYPT BY ATTEMPTING POLICY OF POLITICAL CONTAINMENT THROUGH LIBYA AND IRAQ, AND BY PUNISHING HER THROUGH INCREASES OF ARMS SHIPMENTS TO SYRIA AND NEW AGREEMENT WITH LIBYA WHILE WITHHOLDING THEM FROM EGYPT.

5. WHATEVER CONCRETE RESULTS EMERGE FROM JALLUD'S VISIT TO MOSCOW, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT EGYPTIAN SUSPICION OF BOTH USSR AND LIBYA IS ON THE INCREASE. ANOTHER EFFECT MAY BE A CONCOMITANT INCREASE IN GOE'S CONCERN ABOUT BEING ISOLATED IN ARAB WORLD.  
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